



WINCHESTER AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Secretary: Angela Forder-Stent 01962 712443
Hon Treasurer: Matt Avery, 01962 856423
Newsletter Editor: Russell Fairchild 01962 852333
www.winchesterbeekeepers.org.uk (Ctrl + click to link)
President: Ron Broadway
Chairman: Hugh Sykes

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2011

BOB'S BIT

I am again indebted to Waitrose Weekend for a bee-flavoured item. It reports that the Inscrutable Orientals compete to get the most weight of bees to attach themselves to their person. The winner attracted 26.86kg. What pithy apophthegm would Confucius have delivered? "Man who covers self in bees is in ticklish situation"? And how do you get them off?



Editor: If an average bee weighs 90mg (see Yates & Yates V011 App 16), 26.86 kg amounts to about 27M bees!?

The swarming season is at last coming to an end, though there is always a colony that has not read the book, or heard that "a swarm of bees in July....etc." So our gallant swarm catchers would be unwise to discard the handy cardboard box they've been keeping all summer. It would be as risky as a young couple selling the pram.

Next comes the harvest. Nothing much comes in after the first week in August, by which time I shall have taken the supers off. If your queens have stopped

APIARY MEETING
Saturday 10th September @ 2.30 p.m.

**With Clarissa Lodge at
her home**

Directions in September Newsletter

laying from end to end, then you can take out the damaged frames you prudently moved to the outside, and replace them with foundation. It gives all the redundant workers something to do, and if nothing else is yielding nectar, to draw it out - then there is always the ivy.

APIARY MEETING - Saturday 9th July
With Hugh Sykes at Chandlers Ford

There was a warning shower as we arrived, but thereafter we enjoyed a beautiful afternoon. We were divided into four groups to inspect several of Hugh's colonies.

Ros's group checked out a colony which had been hived a couple of weeks before. They were developing well drawing out comb on all frames with eggs, larvae and sealed brood on four.

Russell's group inspected a very productive colony with a four year old queen. There were many destroyed queen cells and one open one, possibly in a supersedure position, which begged the question, had they decided that she had at last passed her 'sell by'

date? From their strength it seemed unlikely that they had swarmed.

Matt, assisted by his son Max (aged 4!), checked out the colony which had been used in the observation hive at Sparsholt the week before. It had been collected as a medium size swarm in May and was building up well, and a few more frames were added to fully populate the brood box.

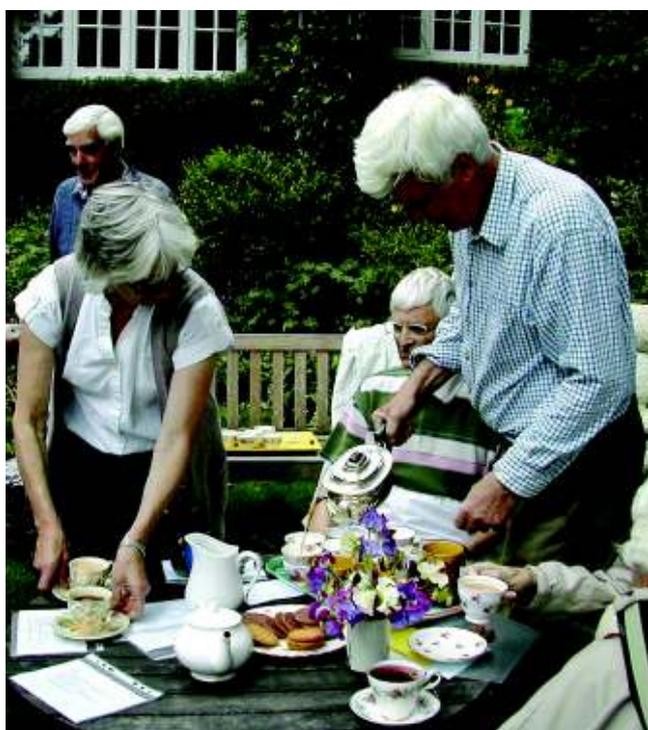
The fourth group helped Hugh complete the successful uniting of three colonies, one of which had been Queenless and another very weak.

It was an excellent afternoon of beekeeping. Many thanks Hugh and Barbara.

provided by the college). Several members had brought along honey to sell and some seventy 1lb jars were sold at £5 ea.



..... and the sound man came too.



Time for elegantly served tea and biscuits!

THE RADIO 4 GQT GARDEN PARTY Sparsholt 2nd July

It was a superb sunny day and 1200 visitors came to this high profile event at Sparsholt College, from all over the country; most of them visited WDBKA's comprehensive beekeeping display in the orchard at some time during the day.

Large numbers attended the six fifteen minute talks given by Hugh, and the members who were on stand duty were in almost continuous demand answering questions and giving advice on bee related matters, barely having time to eat their packed lunches (kindly

HONEY JARS FOR SALE

Boxes of 72 x 1lb honey jars for sale @ £20.50 per box including lids. To be collected from Itchen Stoke by arrangement! Contact Clarissa Lodge on 01962 779302 or by e-mail:-

clarissa.lodge@googlemail.com

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - THE NATIONAL HONEY SHOW Weybridge, Surrey 27th to 29th October 2011

Danish queen rearing expert Keld Brandstrup, Thomas Seeley from Cornell University, USA and Eric Osterlund, editor of the Swedish beekeeping journal 'Bitidningen' will be among the international experts presenting lectures at the show. It will also feature an extensive programme of workshops. More details next month.

ANOTHER DATE FOR YOUR DIARY 2nd October

The green 'Transition Network' organisation's Chandlers Ford and Eastleigh branch (www.ETNet.org.uk) will be holding a workshop on the 2nd October in St Denys, about how to make a nest for solitary bees. Would Winchester Beekeepers like to attend this event? Also, would Winchester Beekeepers like to contribute any honey towards a raffle prize at the event? And it would be good to have mead there as well. Contact Greg Hewitt at: transitionchandlersford@etnet.org.uk.